

## **CHILD PROTECTION POLICY of the two partner organizations**

**Responsible Community in Education NGO / Tanzania**  
**and**  
**SchuPa Tansania e.V. / Germany**

### **1. Introduction**

The registered non-profit association NGO Responsible Community in Education (RCE) based in Illembula/Tanzania and the non-profit association SchuPa Tansania e.V. (SchuPa) based in Haar/Germany jointly promote partnership relations between schools in Tanzania and Germany. Within the framework of these South-North school partnerships, regular encounters are made possible, long-term partnership relationships are established and joint projects are implemented.

Both organizations support these concrete global partnerships between schools in the Global South and the Global North (analogous to SDG 17) against the background of various global challenges (e.g. climate crisis, scarcity of resources, species extinction, social inequality, violent oppression, pandemic health risks). Aware of living in ONE WORLD, the participating schools pursue the goal of jointly launching necessary and promising transformations locally and contributing globally to the fulfillment of the goals of the 2030 Agenda in an equal coexistence and a co-creation aimed at sustainable development.

Within the framework of these school partnerships, the offers of RCE and SchuPa are primarily aimed at children and young people. They are direct or indirect target groups of all activities and projects whose effects primarily affect them. Therefore, both organizations commit themselves to promote the rights of children and young people and to protect them from all forms of violence as much as possible.

### **2. Definition**

For the purposes of this Child Protection Policy, children and young people shall comprise:

- in accordance with the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, the group of persons and thus all persons under the age of 18
- based on the definition of the United Nations, all young adult people such as students and trainees in educational institutions up to and including the age of 24.

### **3. Vision**

Within the scope of their possibilities, RCE and SchuPa offer children and young people access to and development opportunities in elementary and secondary educational institutions. The well-being of these children and young people is always at the heart of the commitment. Both partner organizations - including all those who work for them and on their behalf - face up to the responsibility and duty not to harm, abuse or use any other forms of violence against children and young people or to expose them to any kind of violence. Unequal treatment, discrimination and exclusion are not tolerated and are an opportunity to take an offensive stance against it.

The active participation of children and young people regarding their own protection is supported.

RCE and SchuPa ensure that all responsible persons (members of the RCE Board and SchuPa Board), all members of both organizations, as well as all partners who work for them or support

them, will understand their protective role and take responsibility for it. Those persons who pose a risk to children and young people are kept away, and strict measures are taken against those who engage in violence against children and young people.

Both organizations hereby fully commit themselves to work together to end violence against children and young people. The legal basis for this is formed by the UN Human Rights <sup>1</sup> and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. <sup>2</sup>

#### 4. Mission

In view of the guiding and role-model function of the NGO Responsible Community in Education and SchuPa Tansania e.V. and with regard to the partner schools, partners and donors, both organizations undertake to anchor actively and continuously the safeguarding of the well-being and protection of children and young people in their joint work, to increase awareness of this problem and at the same time to contribute to preventing violence against and ill-treatment of children and young people.

The two organizations recognize that violence against children and young people is widespread worldwide and occurs in all societies. The World Health Organization (WHO) distinguishes five basic forms of violence that can lead to a potential or actual threat to the health, development or dignity of children and adolescents: physical violence, psychological violence, sexual abuse, neglect and exploitation. <sup>3</sup>

Child protection within the meaning of this directive is defined as a preventive, organizational and event-related commitment in all areas of action and at all levels of RCE and SchuPa in order to protect children and young people from these dangers. It includes the obligation to take necessary measures to safeguard the well-being and protection of children and young people or to avert their endangerment or harm. This includes the obligation to report and analyze suspicions and concerns or breaches within the framework of these directives and the respective national provisions in order to ensure that the safety of children and young people is continuously improved.

RCE and SchuPa are guided by the following **objectives and principles**:

- All children and young people have the right of protection from all forms of violence (UN Convention on the Rights of the Child / Article 19). The rights of children and young people apply regardless of age, gender, nationality, origin, skin colour, ethnicity, language, political opinion, religious beliefs, family and marital status, disability, physical or mental illness, economic situation, social status and criminal record.
- This Child Protection Policy must be applied in all areas of our actions and at all levels of our structures. We ensure that our partner schools including the members, teachers, parents and employees involved in our partnerships as well as other partners support and strengthen to the extent that they can fulfil their obligations under this Child Protection Policy and ensure the safety and protection of children and young people.
- All children and young people of our partner schools are cared for, protected, strengthened and informed about their rights within the scope of our possibilities. It ensures that these children and young people understand our protection mandate and that

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights> (accessed on 01.08.2021)

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.ohchr.org/en/professionalinterest/pages/crc.aspx> (accessed on 01.08.2021)

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.who.int/health-topics/violence-against-children#tab=tab\\_2](https://www.who.int/health-topics/violence-against-children#tab=tab_2) (accessed on 01.08.2021)

they are able to exercise their rights of safety and protection and to report violations of this Policy.

- All decisions of our organizations are made in the interest of children and young people and – as far as possible – with their active participation. Children and young people are encouraged to express their opinions so that their needs can be taken into account in the decision-making processes.
- Through joint, constructive and open discussions and reflections on our protection mandate, in which the responsible persons of our partner schools are involved, we ensure a continuous improvement process so that we can permanently meet our responsibility towards children, young people and their families.

## **5. Procedures for dealing with suspected cases and infringements**

Members and partners of RCE and SchuPa are obliged to immediately report a plausible suspicion of violation or actual practices and behaviors against this Child Protection Policy to the respectively responsible body (RCE Board or SchuPa Board). In the event of such a notification, these bodies must immediately take the necessary steps to check the suspicion in order to identify it, if necessary, to be provided in good time and to sanction it appropriately.

If necessary, the competent authorities of social welfare, education and security shall be involved in order to investigate the suspicion.

Violations of this Child Protection Policy may be sanctioned by breaking contacts, terminating contractual and partnership agreements, by disciplinary proceedings, exclusion and dismissal. Whenever necessary, appropriate legal compensation and criminal sanctions also have to be implemented.

If there are deliberately or maliciously false accusations, those who have made them must in turn expect sanctions.

## **6. Summary**

The implementation of this Child Protection Policy for RCE and SchuPa with objectives and principles for individual and institutional behaviour is an impulse to deal with the issue of ensuring the well-being and protection of children and young people and thus contributes to improving the structural protection of children in our communities and societies worldwide.

## **7. Validity**

This child protection guideline was adopted on 16/08/2021 by the Board of the NGO Responsible Community in Education and on 13/08/2021 by the Board of SchuPa Tansania e.V. and will be reviewed at regular intervals and supplemented if necessary.